

*Developing through learning and learning through developing is the virtuous circle sought by foreign assistance. Drawing on the knowledge and experience brought by donor organizations, benefactors expand their capacity to understand their present and build new approaches to guiding their future.*

*As an organization inspired to promote the art of learning, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) established its Mission in Bulgaria to bring best practices and experience from the United States and other countries to cope with the challenges of transition and to build governance systems based on the principles of democracy, free enterprise, and civil society.*

*Over a decade of bilateral assistance to Bulgaria, USAID, working in partnership with Bulgarian institutions at all levels, has managed to transform this "vision of learning" into a diverse portfolio of assistance. Programs range from democratization and economic restructuring to social transition and humanitarian assistance. The results of our joint activities have proven both rewarding and tangible.*

*At the threshold of developing our next five-year strategy, the USAID Mission looks to capitalize on the successes and experiences of its past work in Bulgaria, while continuing to explore new areas of assistance responsive to Bulgaria's evolving needs. We seek to develop a demand-driven assistance strategy targeted at consolidating a growing economy, strengthening the institutions of democratic governance, and improving the lives of the people for whom the transition to market-based democracy has brought most hardship and least opportunities. To achieve this objective, we will seek to reinforce our partnerships at all levels in formulating the future course of U.S. Government assistance to Bulgaria.*

*It is not our aim to teach Bulgaria how to move along the road to democracy and free market economy, as there is no universal path to progress and sustainable development. Rather, we want to learn and develop in the spirit of partnership and creativity. I look forward to participating in this collaborative endeavor and to expanding the scope of this mutual learning experience.*



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